

Minnesota to have two Senators representing them here in this Chamber. I wish Senator Coleman the very best in his future endeavors and again thank Senator McCONNELL for his remarks which I know speak on behalf of all Senators from both sides of the aisle.

SOTOMAYOR NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, Senator McCONNELL spoke previously about the nomination of Judge Sotomayor to the Supreme Court. This is a rare, historic opportunity for the Senate to consider a nomination sent to us by the President. It doesn't happen very often. In my career, my 13th year in the Senate, this will be my third opportunity in the Judiciary Committee to actually ask questions of someone who aspires to serve on the highest Court of the land, a lifetime appointment and a very important appointment in terms of our Nation's history.

The question raised by Senator McCONNELL is entirely appropriate. I commend him because his statement really goes to the heart of what this process should be about. It wasn't about the personality of the judge or any personal trait, it was about her beliefs and whether they are the kinds of beliefs we would like to see enshrined in her service as a Supreme Court Justice.

Particularly, Senator McCONNELL raised an issue which is very important to him. It is the issue of free speech in relation to political campaigns. I know this is important because Senator McCONNELL took an exceptional position in being in opposition to McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform. This was a reform which these two Senators—one Republican and the other Democrat—brought to the Senate in an effort to reduce the impact of corporate contributions and large contributions in our political campaigns. It was their belief that the so-called soft money which avoided some of the restrictions that are applied to other contributions had gone too far in the extreme. Senator McCONNELL was not alone, but he really was in the minority in opposing the McCain-Feingold position. He even went so far as to file documents before the courts arguing that this was a violation of free speech. The courts did not find in his favor and ruled that McCain-Feingold was, in fact, permissible and constitutional.

Now Senator McCONNELL comes to the floor and argues that Judge Sotomayor apparently doesn't agree with his point of view either. That is certainly Senator McCONNELL's right to do. But to question whether she should be allowed to serve on the Supreme Court because she disagrees with Senator McCONNELL's minority views on McCain-Feingold and the use of money in political campaigns is an unfair characterization of her position. Keep in mind that Judge Sotomayor comes to this nomination with an ex-

traordinary background. She brings more Federal judicial experience to the Supreme Court, if approved, than any Justice nominated in over 100 years and more overall judicial experience than anyone confirmed to the Court in the past 70 years.

She was first nominated by a Republican President to serve on the Federal court, President George Herbert Walker Bush. Then she was promoted to the next level court, the circuit court, by President Clinton, a Democratic President—bipartisan support, approval of the Senate both times, and no one suggested her views were radical or not in the mainstream of judicial thinking in America.

So when Senator McCONNELL raises this point, it reflects the fact that his view of campaign finance, his view of restrictions on contributions is, in fact, a minority position, one that the court has not approved of and most Americans may not agree with. Most Americans believe we should keep a close eye on political contributions to make sure they don't corrupt our political process. We want to honor free speech. Some of us believe the Court decision in *Buckley v. Valeo* went to an extreme and basically argued that the expenditure of money in a political campaign was an exercise of free speech. That argument leads to the conclusion that a millionaire is entitled to more free speech than the common person who couldn't spend that kind of money on a political campaign.

I might also add, we have been trying to move forward a piece of legislation that will give even more disclosure on political campaign financing. It would require the electronic filing of campaign finance reports. We have been trying to move this forward. There has been resistance on the other side of the aisle.

I think it is bipartisan and consistent with the goals of this Congress for us to have this kind of disclosure, for us to recognize that freedom of speech brings with it certain obligations, and that Judge Sotomayor's rulings in cases relating to free speech have been entirely consistent with the values of our country and in the mainstream of this Nation.

Next Monday, her nomination comes before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has used his 5 minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it will go on for several days, and I will have a chance to speak then. I will yield the floor now. Thank you.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Thank you, Madam President.

COMMENDING COLEMAN

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, in 1998, Norm Coleman ran for Governor of Minnesota against the son of

one of the most revered Members of this body, Hubert Humphrey, who was also a former Vice President of the United States, and a noted wrestler, Jesse Ventura, who was elected Governor.

In 2002, Norm Coleman ran a campaign against Paul Wellstone, a beloved Member of this body who was tragically killed in an airplane crash a week or so before the election, bringing into the race a former Vice President of the United States, a former U.S. Senator and Ambassador, Walter Mondale. The whole country watched and was riveted by that race during that last week. Norm Coleman won that race.

This past year, Norm Coleman was a participant in a race that also riveted the Nation. He was opposed by a well-known television personality, AL FRANKEN, now a Member of this body. The race went on for 2 years, with much publicity. Then it went on for another 8 months after election day.

If Norm Coleman could have found some way to make the 2000 Presidential election *Bush v. Gore v. Coleman*, Norm would have been a participant in every single one of the most spectacular political races of the last decade.

Norm and I arrived in the Senate on the same day in 2003. We not only were Members of the Senate family, which we often talk about here and which extends to both sides of the aisle, we were Members of the same class, and are good friends.

My wife, Honey, and I got to know Norm and his wife, Laurie, the mother of their two children. We know of his love for his family and of his deep religious faith. Each of us in the Senate has enjoyed the good humor and cheer and civil relationship that Norm has had with his colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans.

But most memorable—and the Republican leader spoke of some of this—is Norm Coleman's record of service to our country: Chief prosecutor for the State of Minnesota, mayor of St. Paul, Senator.

He has been a strong, eloquent, effective voice for the center of this country—an independent voice of the kind our country and the Republican Party needs to attract and represent and continue to bring into our party and into our political process the center.

The political campaigns of Norm Coleman have been more spectacular than those of any of us in the Senate. But the public service chapters of his life have been equally impressive. As this door closes, I am confident new ones will open.

When I was Governor of Tennessee, my chief of staff, a former Marine, came in and said to me during my last years: Governor, I would like to say to you that people remember the last thing you do. And I had no idea why he said that to me, but I never could get it out of my mind, and I think it is pretty good advice.

People will remember the last thing Norm Coleman did in this campaign. He proved to be determined and courageous and, in the Minnesota tradition, a happy warrior in attempting to make sure that every Minnesota vote counted in the race, which was decided by just a few votes.

But then, when the Minnesota Supreme Court made its decision, he immediately was gracious about accepting the rule of law and the court's decision and stepping aside and congratulating AL FRANKEN.

That is the picture of Norm Coleman that most Minnesotans and most Americans will remember. That may have been the last thing that Norm did in this race, but I am sure it is far from the last thing he is likely to do in public life.

Norm Coleman, after those three spectacular races, deserves an easy, humdrum, conventional political race someday. And Minnesota and the Nation can hope we will deserve and have many more years of Norm Coleman's public service.

Madam President, I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

I see my colleague from Florida.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I am here this morning to speak about my good friend and former colleague, Norm Coleman.

Norm and I first met when I was Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Norm had been the mayor of St. Paul—I had been the mayor of Orange County, FL—and immediately we established a bond. We kind of spoke the same language, if you will. We understood each other. We had both been involved in the milieu of urban politics as well as the challenges and responsibilities of being a big city urban center mayor.

I remember our discussions about the problems of the cities and about the opportunities. Norm had been very successful in creating a new arena for the hockey team in St. Paul, and this was, I know, a tremendously proud thing for him, an accomplishment he had.

Little did I know our paths would again cross here in the Senate. I remember being in Miami at a radio station and there was a TV monitor on the screen during the election of 2002, and I remember it was a debate between Norm Coleman and former Vice President and Senator Walter Mondale. I remember being detained there watching him and thinking what a tough spot he landed in, what a complicated race it had been through the tragic death of Senator Wellstone, and how proud I was of him, of this fellow whom I did not know that well but whom I had met on a couple of occasions, and he was handling himself quite well. It turned out he was successful in that race.

Then, only a couple years later, we were reunited here in the Senate as

colleagues. We both immediately found one another on the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. Norm, at that time, was the chair of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee. I found in Norm someone who was uncommonly knowledgeable about the Western Hemisphere and carried out those responsibilities with a great sense of urgency.

Norm and I traveled in Latin America together. We traveled to Chile and to Colombia and perhaps a couple of other places where we conducted meetings trying to advance the United States agenda, promoting the rule of law, fighting against narcotrafficking that is such a blight upon our cities and our communities, and trying to improve the conditions of democratic rule in the region.

I have no doubt that if Norm Coleman were in the Senate this week, he would have been side by side with us as we have watched closely the events in Honduras and have tried to promote a reasonable, fair, and democratic outcome to that country's troubled current moments of their living.

He was the original sponsor of efforts to build stronger relations with our neighbors to the south. I had the opportunity, as I said, to travel with him. Part of our traveling took us to Colombia where a tremendous challenge lies ahead for the people of Colombia as they fight for the rule of law and against the narcoterrorists in that country. I remember our meeting with President Uribe that he and I had.

Norm was also very committed and concerned about a stable Middle East, about advancing the peace process in the Middle East, but also about the security of Israel. He was a very strong voice for a strong United States-Israel relationship. He was a clear voice on the need for us to stop and not allow Iran to develop a capability that is nuclear and that would invite the opportunity for Iran to carry out the stated wishes of destroying the state of Israel. He was a friend of Israel.

He was also a friend of Cuban freedom. I remember when Norm was first in the Senate. He came to the Senate 2 years before I did. During that time, I was still Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. I heard that Norm Coleman was traveling to Cuba. I said to Norm: As you travel to Cuba, as a now sitting Senator, I hope you will remember there is a large and growing dissident movement on that island and they deserve the same recognition you would have given to Lech Walesa or Vaclav Havel had you been traveling to Eastern Europe in the 1980s.

Norm heard my voice and sought the opportunity to meet with the Cuban dissidents while he was on the island. This came as a great surprise to his host because the Cuban Government frowns upon visiting dignitaries meeting with anyone who would present the potential for a democratic opposition to a country that has not known democracy now for half a century.

But, in any event, Norm Coleman met with them, and not only met with them but while in Cuba made some very strong statements about the need for a democratic solution to the Cuban situation, about the need for the people of Cuba to have an opportunity to live in freedom, and he spoke highly about the dissidents. Needless to say, that is the last time Norm Coleman has been invited to visit Cuba by the Cuban Government. But I knew then I had found a friend who clearly understood the difference between freedom and oppression and who would clearly stand on the side of freedom.

Norm, as has been expressed here this morning, with great grace and courage, fought through a very difficult election, and that is in addition to the ups and downs of all that went on in the recount and the legal challenges that followed.

Norm, with great grace, moved aside. When the time was right, and when the legal challenges had been exhausted, he did so with the grace and dignity that is the hallmark of Norm Coleman.

Norm and Laurie are my friends. I wish them the very best as they go forward in their lives. I know they will find other opportunities to be of service to the people of Minnesota and to the people of the United States, and I might daresay also to the people of Florida because Norm has a great affection for my State, where he has spent a lot of his time—I would daresay particularly in the cold and bitter months when maybe it is a little more pleasant around my neck of the woods than it would be in Minnesota.

But we always welcome Norm to Florida. We hope he will continue to visit us frequently, where he has a multitude of friends and a multitude of people who love him, who appreciate him, and who thank him for his great service to our Nation and our State, and who thank him for the great concern he has demonstrated about people who are oppressed, as well as those who seek to live in freedom and peace without threat from their neighbors.

Madam President, I thank you and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Madam President, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in making some comments about our former colleague, Norm Coleman. I welcome Senator FRANKEN to the Senate. I welcome him to his service here and congratulate him on his victory. But it would come as no surprise that Senator Coleman will be sadly missed.

I had the experience of serving with him on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee where he served as the chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigation. This is a subcommittee that has an interesting history. It has the history of some demagoguery if you go back into the past. It also has a history of some accomplishment of the various Senators who have served there. I

think it unusual that a freshman Senator would serve in that capacity and serve as if he were not a freshman but a seasoned veteran. He took over that assignment and went after a number of areas of controversy, and with a persistence that served him and the Senate very well, pursued a number of difficulties.

So with all of the things we have heard about Norm Coleman—his intelligence, his grace, his willingness to work hard and at the same time do so with a sense of class about him—I add my tribute to his ability to take on a difficult assignment and follow it through.

I wish him and his wife and his family well in their activities now. I will not go through the resume the Republican leader has established for us. I simply add my voice of gratitude for the opportunity of serving with Norm Coleman and my best wishes for him in his future activities. He is a young and vigorous enough man that I think we will hear far more from him in the years ahead.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I rise to speak this morning for a few minutes about my dear friend, now former Senator, Norm Coleman, from the great State of Minnesota. Norm was a very unique individual in the Senate. He grew up in New York, was educated in Iowa, and wound up living in Minnesota. He was a student leader in undergraduate school as well as in law school, so his leadership qualities were certainly recognized early on.

Norm grew up in an era right behind me, which was the era of big rock bands, and Norm was right in with the majority of the crowd of young folks back then and, in fact, was a roadie with a rock band for a while. He spent his 20th birthday at Woodstock. We used to joke about that a lot in some of our conversations.

After law school, Norm obviously settled down in the State of Minnesota where he joined the Office of the Attorney General and eventually became the State solicitor general. He prosecuted any number of cases in both of those offices. He became the mayor of St. Paul, MN, in 1993, and, boy, did he ever take over a town that was headed south and bring it back to be a totally revitalized community in a way in which, frankly, I have never seen.

When you talk to the people of St. Paul today and you ask them about what Norm Coleman did for the down-

town area of St. Paul, a smile immediately comes to the faces of those residents of St. Paul. He created thousands of new jobs and brought in more than \$3 billion of new development to the city. The one thing St. Paul residents, as well as Minneapolis residents, will tell you today about Norm Coleman from the standpoint of his legacy as mayor is that he brought the hockey team back to Minneapolis-St. Paul, and that has had a tremendous economic influence on that community.

I think it is a real tribute to Norm and his leadership that after being elected as a Democrat in 1993, he became a Republican in 1996, and then ran for reelection as mayor in 1997 as a Republican, and was again elected mayor of St. Paul. Norm ran for Governor of Minnesota in 1998, and as a testament to the character, the integrity, and the dedication as a public servant of Norm Coleman, when he lost that race for Governor, he was still mayor of St. Paul, and the day after that election, he was back in his mayoral office at 8 o'clock in the morning taking care of the business of the people of St. Paul.

I was very privileged to know Norm in a way other than just being a colleague. We were very close personal friends. Having been elected together, individuals within classes tend to hang together from time to time, and Norm and I enjoyed many social moments outside of this Chamber, as well as many strong professional moments inside this Chamber. I will have to say that as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, of which Norm was a member, there was no harder working member of that committee for his constituents, no more dedicated individual to agricultural interests in his State than was Norm Coleman. In fact, during the farm bill debate last year, Norm pounded on me every single day during the course of that farm bill debate about some issue that was of particular interest to his State. It may have been talking about some issue relative to ethanol, some issue relative to the issues surrounding corn, wheat, or sugar beets, but whatever it was, Norm was just a hard-working, dedicated man when it came to making sure his constituents' interests were protected in that piece of legislation which was so vitally important to the State he represented.

I had the opportunity to travel with Norm many times in the State of Minnesota, and he likewise traveled in my State. I remember very well going to the Minnesota State fair with Norm. While we were there, we visited with some of his corn growers whom I have gotten to know on a personal basis as a result of my relationship with Norm.

I will never forget that because coming from a cotton-growing State where we produce a fiber that is used in the manufacture of clothing, the folks in Minnesota have developed a way to produce a piece of cloth from by-products of corn and ethanol production.

They gave me a shirt that day. It was a red shirt. They hadn't quite perfected this procedure at that point in time. I had a T-shirt on underneath the shirt I had on, and I immediately took my shirt off and put that red shirt on. It was hot as it could be that day. When we got back to the hotel that night, I took that shirt off, and I had this pink undershirt on as a result of having that shirt on. The corn growers have reminded me of that. We have had a good laugh about that ever since.

Norm is just one of those guys who not only was a dedicated professional Member of this body, but he is a good guy. He is one of those individuals who folks on both sides of the aisle had, first of all, respect for as a Member of this body, but also from a personal standpoint Norm was easy to get along with, easy to work with, and he wanted to do what was in the best interests of Americans.

I think his work on the Foreign Relations Committee, particularly with respect to his investigation of the fraudulent activities ongoing at the United Nations, is unparalleled with respect to any investigation I have seen take place during my years in the Senate. He uncovered an awful lot of fraud and abuse.

As a result of Norm's dedicated work and his dogged determination, some changes have been made. Were Norm to have come back to the Senate, there is no question he would have continued to pursue that issue, and we will continue to receive benefits from Norm's investigative measures that were undertaken at the United Nations.

I think Norm's reputation as a fighter and as a strong advocate for Minnesotans is reflective in the way he handled his election. He fought hard in his election. It was very much an uphill battle. A lot of us had tough elections last year, but nobody had a tougher one than Norm on a day-to-day basis. But he wanted to make sure the people who voted for him, the people who supported him and worked hard in his election all across the State of Minnesota had their just due, and he wanted to make sure he could look every Minnesotan in the eye and say: I did everything I could do to make sure this election was fairly conducted and to make sure that every single vote I could possibly get was counted.

At the end of the day, when the election was finally decided, once again, in his very professional way, he conceded and decided, as some of us have to do in politics from time to time, that it is time to move on.

We are going to miss Norm Coleman in this body. We are going to miss his family. Laurie and my wife are very dear friends. They communicated from time to time both while the two of them were in Washington as well as being in communication back and forth while they were in their respective States. We will miss that personal relationship. His daughter Sarah and his son Jacob are two very fine young people and certainly are reflective of the

fact that they have been raised by two very good parents.

So to Norm Coleman I simply say we will miss you in the Senate. We are not going to let him go away, though. I still talk to him on a regular basis and will continue to do so and will seek his advice, his counsel on any number of issues because this is a man who has served the public just about all of his adult life. He has done so in a professional way and in a way that all of us wish to emulate.

Congratulations to Norm, and good luck on whatever road life now takes him.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I enjoyed hearing my colleague's comments about our friend Senator Norm Coleman because I share the same sentiments. I rise today to speak about the extraordinary service of this extraordinary individual.

When I became the chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee in 2003, a freshman Senator took over the position that I had held as the chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. During the next 6 years, I came to know Senator Norm Coleman as an energetic, farsighted, and committed public servant, but most of all I came to know Norm as a dear friend.

As chairman, and later ranking member, of PSI, Norm demonstrated unfailing leadership and extraordinary dedication. Working with his colleague from across the aisle, Senator CARL LEVIN, Norm enhanced PSI's reputation as the Senate's premier investigative subcommittee. He undertook many complex and important investigations.

Under this team's leadership, the subcommittee was successful in ferreting out waste, fraud, and abuse to the tune of \$14 billion. I remember particularly well an investigation that exposed tax cheats in Medicare and in defense contracting.

Another success resulting from Norm's leadership was his highly successful and courageous "oil for food" investigation. Norm's investigation uncovered billions of dollars of fraud in this program operated by the United Nations. Norm was focused, determined, and undeterred in his pursuit of the facts, in his pursuit of the truth.

Norm's abiding concern for upholding the public trust is rooted in his background. As a former prosecutor, he is a champion of the rule of law. As a former mayor, he understands the concerns of State and local government. As a Senator, he always worked hard for the people he represented and for the people of this entire country.

These traits were evident in his service as a member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Norm's hard work ensured that the Special Inspector General for Iraq

Reconstruction had the resources and the authority necessary to do his work effectively. Norm's keen insight into local government was invaluable during our extensive investigation into the failed response to Hurricane Katrina. His insight—critical insight—helped to shape reform in so many areas, ranging from our intelligence agencies, the postal service, and government contracting.

Norm was also a passionate advocate for educational opportunity. His support for strengthening the Pell Grant Program demonstrated his belief that the benefits of higher education should be available to everyone with the determination and the desire to pursue more education.

In fact, the only quibble I have with Norm's public service dates back to his tenure as mayor of St. Paul. His success in bringing professional hockey back to Minnesota was certainly commendable, but it was based, as I understand it, on the flawed premise that Minnesota is the hockey capital of the United States. The people of Maine know better, of course, but this was typical of Norm's pride in his State.

The past election brought great disappointment, but it also revealed character. Norm ran a vigorous, honorable campaign, under very difficult circumstances. He never betrayed his constituents, nor compromised his principles. When the final court decision went against him, he graciously conceded defeat. In fact, I had the opportunity to talk with Norm right after the supreme court in Minnesota ruled against him. I was struck, once again, by his determination to do what he felt was best for his State, even though it was not best for him. I was also touched by his commitment, once again, to his constituents and to moving on and ensuring that they had two Senators representing them. He was not bitter. He was not hurt. He was at peace. He was at peace because he knew he had served the people of his State to the best of his ability and with all his heart and tremendous intellect.

It has been a true honor to serve with Norm Coleman in the Senate, and the American people—not just the people of Minnesota—are better off for his service. It has been a joy to develop our friendship—a friendship I will always cherish and always continue. I will miss serving with Norm day to day, but I know I will see him many times.

I wish Norm and his wonderful family all the best in the years to come.

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I join my Republican colleagues in thanking Senator Norm Coleman for his service in the Senate.

As a valued member of my whip team, Senator Coleman was devoted to solving problems in a practical and nonpartisan way. I could always expect from him a serious and interesting view of an issue and could count on him for good advice. His thoughtful and unique perspective, as well as his talent and high energy, will be missed.

Senator Coleman ran a fine campaign and was a consummate gentleman throughout the long process of determining the winner of his seat.

I join my colleagues in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors, and know that he will remain an important voice in our party.

Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, the Senate will continue to benefit in the years ahead from the service and example of Norm Coleman as a U.S. Senator.

He brought to the Senate a seriousness of purpose and a high level of energy which he used to help shape national policies and successfully address many important challenges faced by our country.

I enjoyed working with him and playing tennis with him. He brought to his service in the Senate a strong and determined commitment to solve the problems facing our country, especially as they affected farmers and workers in his State of Minnesota.

Norm Coleman's leadership will be missed in the Senate, but we will continue to benefit from his example and his contributions to this body for many years to come.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, I am pleased to join with other Senate colleagues in honoring a loyal and talented friend, Norm Coleman. For the past 6 years, it has been my privilege to serve with him in the Senate. During that time, we have worked together on many issues, and I have witnessed with admiration his character and his dedication to the United States and to the people of Minnesota.

As a former mayor of Indianapolis, I was very pleased to welcome another former mayor to the Senate in 2003 when Norm took his seat after an election that was decided by fewer than 50,000 votes. We talked frequently about our experiences in Indianapolis and St. Paul, and we shared many perspectives on domestic policy because of this common bond. He was devoted to principles of good government that deeply informed his service in the Senate. It also was clear to me that Senator Coleman had an extremely strong commitment to constituent service that was stimulated by his service as a mayor. He understood that serving his constituents was a 24 hour-a-day job, and he threw himself into the task of serving all Minnesotans.

I am especially sad to see Norm leave the Senate because he has been an outstanding partner in the work of the Foreign Relations Committee. I encouraged him to join our committee in 2003, and he played a prominent role in our work from the day he arrived. For 6 years, I sat with Norm through hundreds of Foreign Relations Committee hearings and meetings. He was one of the most active members of the committee, and he could be counted on to bolster our debates and our efforts to achieve quorums. I greatly benefitted from the opportunity to exchange ideas with him, to compare perspectives on

our witnesses, and to develop common approaches to problems.

His impact was especially profound as chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee from 2003 until 2006. He traveled frequently to Latin America and quickly developed an expertise in the region. He was an effective advocate for Plan Colombia, and he was one of our first leaders to recognize how important it was to ensure that Colombians had alternatives to economic and energy dependence on Venezuela. He performed important oversight of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, the Peace Corps, and U.S. policy toward Haiti. Senator Coleman was the lead organizer of the U.S.-Chile Caucus, a group that allowed Senators to engage with Chileans to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Senator Coleman developed expertise that went well beyond Latin America. In April 2004, I chaired the Senate's first hearing that looked into the troubled Iraq Oil for Food Program. Senator Coleman took the lead from there, and as chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, he conducted an extensive, 2-year investigation into corruption and mismanagement related to the Oil for Food Program. Many of his conclusions were the basis of legislation that he and I introduced in 2005—the United Nations Management, Personnel, and Policy Reform Act. Senator Coleman also was a passionate and informed advocate for U.S. programs to combat HIV/AIDS and a careful student of Middle East politics.

I know how much Norm was stimulated by the daily opportunities of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and he made the most of them. Had he prevailed in his 2008 reelection bid, he would have been the second ranking Republican on the committee.

Senator Coleman leaves the Senate after 6 years, having established lifetime friendships. It was a special pleasure for Char and me to spend time with Norm and his wife Laurie at Aspen Institute events, giving us the opportunity to know much more about their family and life outside the Senate.

I will miss his good humor, his hard work, and his personal friendship. I have no doubts that he will continue to serve the United States and his fellow Americans in new ways, and I look forward to witnessing all that he will achieve in the future. I join the Senate in wishing him the best as he and his family move on to new adventures.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I don't know much about the State of New

York or the city of New York. I do know there is a high school there called James Madison High School, which has some pretty prominent graduates: Senator BERNIE SANDERS from Vermont, Senator CHUCK SCHUMER of New York, and Senator NORM COLEMAN from Minnesota was a graduate of that school. I believe Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a member of the Supreme Court, also graduated from that high school. I am sure there are others.

My message to Norm Coleman is that I have been involved in close elections. I lost an election for the Senate many years ago by 524 votes. I won one not too many years ago by 428 votes. So I have some appreciation for what Norm Coleman and his opponent, AL FRANKEN, went through.

My thoughts during the past 8 months have been directly toward the difficulty they have had in their lives as a result of that close election. One of my elections—the one I won by 428 votes—took 6 weeks. I cannot imagine one taking 8 months. It was a hard-fought campaign. Almost 3 million people voted, and it was decided by 312 votes.

I appreciate, as I think do the people of Minnesota, the Senate, and the country, Norm Coleman not taking this to the Supreme Court or a higher court. He could have done that. That speaks well of him.

Norm has a lot of fans, of course, in the State of Minnesota, but he is also a friend of a close personal friend of mine from the State of Nevada, Sig Rogich. Sig Rogich and I have been very close personal friends for a long time. He is a man of accomplishment. Having been born in Iceland, he came to America and was raised in Henderson, where I was raised. Actually, he is a wealthy man now, a very prominent businessman. One of Norm's biggest supporters around the country is Sig Rogich; he has a great pedigree. He was part of the Tuesday team of famous media developed for Ronald Reagan. He worked in the White House for the first President Bush. He is a very personal friend of the first President Bush and also is well known and was part of the second Bush team and knows him very well. My understanding of Sig Rogich's relationship with Norm Coleman is that they are friends. That speaks well of both of them, that they have such high-quality friends.

Norm Coleman's relationship with me—myself being a Democrat and he being a Republican—was always very good. We spoke to each other often. He was always very courteous and always a gentleman with me. I never heard him say a negative word about me. I cannot ever recall saying anything negative about him. To show that he did do some legislation that I watched very closely, one piece of legislation he did was one that would allow people, when filing their income tax return, to designate part of their return to go to the National Guardsmen or Reservists, those who lose their jobs as a result of

going into combat and their families are having trouble making the grade. The few dollars they get from the military doesn't make up for what their house payment is and everything. This would allow money to be put into a fund to be administered and allow this money to go toward the families of these people fighting overseas. I thought so much of that legislation that I have sponsored it. It is working its way through the Senate, and it is a fine piece of legislation. I acknowledge that I plagiarized this from Norm Coleman. It came from his friend and my friend, Sig Rogich.

I wish Norm and his family the very best. Recognizing that these campaigns come to an end, he is a relatively young man, and I am sure with his educational background and his notoriety in Minnesota, he will have a bright future.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMENDING NORM COLEMAN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I am here today to speak about Senator Coleman, who was my colleague for my first 2 years in the Senate. As everyone knows, last week the Minnesota Supreme Court issued its ruling on the outcome of last November's Senate election. As I did this week, I congratulate AL FRANKEN for his hard-earned and long-awaited election victory. He has had a good first week in the Senate, and we all welcome him. But I do wish to take this time to talk about Norm Coleman.

First of all, after 6 months without having a second Senator, Senator Coleman made a very difficult decision, and he did it with such grace. He could have appealed that decision. He could have gone to Federal court. It was his right. But he made a decision which he felt was best for the State of Minnesota, and the State.

I wish to talk a little bit about what Norm Coleman meant to me to have him as a colleague in the Senate.

When I first came to the Senate, Norm had been a Senator for many years, and he was very gracious to me. He reached out with his staff. We basically got along from the moment I started to the end of his term as a Senator. We worked very hard at that. When we had disagreements, we talked them out and our staffs would talk them out because we felt the most important thing was that we represent the State of Minnesota.

Each one of us knows Norm in our own way, but I think all of us agree this is someone who cares so much